

SITUATION REPORT NO. 22
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: July 5, 2005 Time: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – On June 9, Governor John Hoeven issued a state emergency declaration, which he upgraded to a state disaster declaration on July 1, to address severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, ground saturation, hail, high winds and tornadoes throughout the state and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** The Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted the next chance of thunderstorms will be Friday, July 8, at night and midday Saturday, July 9.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

Bottineau County

Approximately 25 residential properties along Lake Metigoshe are surrounded by water. The County Sheriff estimates 31 inches of water were flowing over the top of the Lake Metigoshe Dam. On July 2, county officials decided to extend the dam opening by 30 to 40 feet wide, eight inches deep to accommodate the high level of water flowing into Oak Creek from the lake. County officials met again on July 4 and decided to cut a trench where they had previously enlarged the outlet. The Emergency Manager reported N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) officials gave permission to use N.D. Highway 43 as a dike. State and local officials will be monitoring the situation and providing assistance with the effort. County representatives are reviewing the situation to determine solutions to the flooding.

Bowman County

On July 5, the County Emergency Manager reported July 2 evening thunderstorms produced heavy rainfall and wind gusts of over 60 miles per hour (mph). Damages reported in Rhame consisted of primarily tree branches.

The storm moved through the city of Bowman where it left one-half inch of rain on the average and was accompanied by winds up to 60 mph. Damages in town consisted of primarily tree branches. One branch, five inches in diameter, landed on Montana-Dakota Utility (MDU) power lines and had to be removed. A 12-foot by 12-foot deck roof was blown off and landed on the owner's house roof. Scranton sustained the largest amount of damages; trees were blown over in yards and branches, some as large as 12 inches in diameter, were snapped off. A 65,000-bushel storage bin was destroyed at Scranton Equity along with overhead roll-up doors. Rainfall amounts in Scranton were up to 1.5 inches. A farmer northwest of Scranton reported 70 mph winds and peak gusts of 78 mph as the storm switched directions as it departed the county. Gascoyne officials reported one-fourth inch of rain and winds in excess of 60 mph. Large tree branches, some measuring more than six inches in diameter, were toppled along with a yard shed, which was moved 50 feet from its location. The Bowman Haley Dam, where a large amount of campers were preparing for the July 4 weekend, sustained damages to one boat when the large waves caused it to sink.

Hettinger County

On July 2, up to 70 mph straight line winds were reported in the New England, Mott and Burt areas along with approximately one inch of rain in New England and one-half inch in Mott. Many tree branches are down with some damage to grain bins and other structures.

Pembina County

On July 5, the County Emergency Manager reported a cement bridge was lost on the Auger Coulee in Felson Township. Another bridge in Midland Township, one mile north of N.D. Highway 66, was also severely damaged.

A tornado warning was issued for the Walhalla, LeRoy, Neche and Bathgate areas when a severe summer storm moved through the county the evening of July 2. A very high straight-line wind event prompted Cavalier officials to activate sirens. At the time of the storm, street dances were underway as part of a Fourth of July celebration in Walhalla and an All Class Reunion in Cavalier. The cities of Walhalla, Hamilton, Hensel, Crystal, Edinburg, St. Thomas, Neche and Hoople were temporarily without power. Power was not restored in the Walhalla area until 1:35 p.m. on July 3. Generators were provided by Cavalier, Crystal, Mountain and the ADM Plant near Walhalla. Ottertail Power officials reported that downed poles and lines, combined with a raging river and fallen trees, made power restoration treacherous. Water is no longer flowing over County Road 55 and flood waters along the Pembina River west of Neche are receding. The Pembina River is spreading out approximately two miles south of County Road 55 between LeRoy and Neche, and is covering agricultural land. The city of Pembina has lifted the request for residents to conserve water. Public Works crews cleared debris off County Road 55, where water was flowing over the road.

Rolette County

On July 5, the County Emergency Manager reported local officials have closed inundated roads and relocated one family due to impassable roads. Other homeowners are threatened by flooded roads but still have access to their

homes. The northwest portion of the county has received golf-ball size hail and up to 15 inches of rain in the past seven to 10 days. Water from Lake Upsilon, located in the Turtle Mountains, is running over the top of Wakopa Dam. On the evening of July 3, a strong thunderstorm moved through the county. In the southwest, there were reports of baseball size hail with damage to crops and trees. One homeowner west of the city of Rolette had evergreens blown over as a result of strong winds. Another landowner's shelterbelt sustained significant damage; branches were broken and trees knocked over. Homeowners throughout the county are fighting water seepage in their basements. Sump pumps are running continuously and the Emergency Manager has been receiving calls regarding sandbags and mold issues.

Sargent County

On Thursday, June 30, water came rushing into the west side of Milnor, pushing through a dike. The local elevator was flooded and diking was initiated around a chemical warehouse and the local Farmer's Union fuel barrels and cardrol station.

On July 2, the communities of Rutland and Havana received 4.5 inches of rain in less than one hour as a system moved through the county during the morning. The heavy rain caused temporary street flooding, lift station and storm sewer infiltration, runoff and ground saturation. Water seepage and overland flooding into the lower level of homes occurred. A second storm system traveled through the county in the afternoon, producing up to four inches of rain, strong winds and pea size hail. Tree damage occurred as a result of the winds. Approximately seven homes in two small communities suffered damage. Four residents were evacuated from a Rutland Housing, Inc., six-plex when water infiltrated the apartments for the second time; the first time occurred during the June 14 storm event. Repairs had just been made and the residents had returned only a few days when the second evacuation occurred. The evacuated residents are with family members. Workers are pumping a lift station in Rutland and a storm water line to take additional pressure off the station. The Forman Fire Department assisted the community of Havana with pumping and tree removal.

On July 5, the County Emergency Manager reported 30 homes in Milnor were surrounded by water or had water in the lower level of their homes. Twelve are manufactured homes; water levels did not reach main levels. The remaining homes have sustained damages on the lower or main levels due to overland flooding. The city of Milnor's lift station flooded.

River Statements

Flood warnings remain in effect for the Red River at Fargo, Drayton, East Grand Forks, Wahpeton and Pembina; the Souris River at Westhope and Towner as well as the Willow Creek River; the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie; and the Pembina River at Neche. With the recent heavy rains, water is still making its way into local rivers.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	24.37 feet @ 1:00 p.m. July 4	Crest near 25 feet July 5
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	45.81 feet @ 12:00 p.m. July 4	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	36.33 feet @ 2:00 p.m. July 4	River trend is falling
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	28.12 feet @ 1:45 p.m. July 4	Crest near 29 feet July 5.
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	10.69 feet @ 2:00 p.m. July 4	River trend is falling
Pembina River at Neche	18 feet	20.32 feet @ 9:45 a.m. July 4	River trend is falling
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	14.98 feet @ 9:45 a.m. July 4	River trend is rising
Souris River near Westhope	10.0 feet	13.10 feet at 7:00 a.m. July 5	Crest @ 13.5 feet on July 18
Souris River near Towner	52 feet	54.20 feet @ 8:00 a.m. July 5	Crest @ 54.5 feet on July 6
Willow Creek near Willow City	10.0 feet	13.09 feet at 4:00 a.m. July 5	Crest @ 14.0 feet on July 6

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: Private sandbag companies are assisting with sandbags.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** In Sargent County volunteers assisted with pumping water from homes, evacuation, home cleanup and tree removal. Volunteers moved personal belongings out of harm's way and also assisted with clean up efforts in numerous homes.
6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** On July 5, Governor John Hoeven toured local communities in Pembina County where damages had occurred due to recent severe storm activity. During the tour, Governor Hoeven met with local officials and residents to discuss impacts to agriculture, infrastructure and strategies for recovery.

Bottineau County

The N.D. National Guard is providing a sandbag machine and sandbags from Camp Gilbert C. Grafton in Devils Lake to assist floodfight efforts along Lake Metigoshe and Oak Creek. Local officials are also coordinating efforts with a private pilot to conduct aerial surveillance of the flooded area. The local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated for 24-hour operations. A County Water Board representative is serving as the Incident Commander. State Water Commission officials are on scene providing technical assistance. The county has used 20,000 sandbags thus far in its floodfight efforts. The State

Operations Center (SOC) staff coordinated assistance requests from county officials this holiday weekend.

Mountrail County

On July 5, the Mountrail County Board of Commissioners issued a disaster declaration.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security